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United States Patent [19]

Kaplan

[11] Patent Number:

5,963,916

[45] Date of Patent:

*Oct. 5, 1999

[54] NETWORK APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PREVIEW OF MUSIC PRODUCTS AND COMPILATION OF MARKET DATA

[75] Inventor: Joshua D. Kaplan, Berkeley, Calif.

[73] Assignee: Intouch Group, Inc., San Francisco,

Calif.

[*] Notice: This patent is subject to a terminal dis-

claimer.

[21] Appl. No.: 08/741,915

[22] Filed: Oct. 31, 1996

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of application No. 08/668,327, Jun. 26, 1996, abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 08/282,153, Jul. 28, 1994, abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 08/035,661, Mar. 23, 1993, abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 07/957, 444, Oct. 6, 1992, Pat. No. 5,237,157, which is a continuation of application No. 07/582,253, Sep. 13, 1990, abandoned.

[52]	U.S. Cl	
[58]	Field of Searc	h 235/462; 705/10,
[]		705/26, 27

COCE 17/60

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57] ABSTRACT

A system for on-line user-interactive multimedia based point-of-preview. The system provides for a network web site and accompanying software and hardware for allowing users to access the web site over a network such as the internet via a computer. The user is uniquely identified to the web site server through an identification name or number. The hardware associated with the web site includes storage of discrete increments of pre-selected portions of music products for user selection and preview. After user selection, a programmable data processor selects the particular prerecorded music product from data storage and then transmits that chosen music product over the network to the user for preview. Subscriber selection and profile data (i.e. demographic information) can optionally be coffected and stored to develop market research data. Since the system provides for multiple embodiments, the system contemplates previewing of audio programs such as music on compact discs, video programs such as movies and text from books and other written documents. Furthermore, it is contemplated that the network web site can be accessed from a publicly accessible kiosk, available, e.g. at a retail store location, or from a desk top computer.

18 Claims, 82 Drawing Sheets

